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Week of August 10, 1987

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The U.S. Department of Labor operates through 10 regional offices located in major cities across the country. If you want a local angle on a news or feature story provided through this service--or have a direct news inquiry--you may contact one of the offices listed below. This listing includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the Regional Directors for Public Affairs and the states in their regions:

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Week of August 10, 1987

BROCK ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL $10 MILLION FOR JOBS FOR OLDER WORKERS, INCLUDING BLACKS

WASHINGTON -- An additional $10 million has been allocated to provide 2,000 jobs for low-income, jobless older workers nationwide, following Congressional enactment of a supplemental appropriations bill, Secretary of Labor William E. Brock announced.

The funds are in addition to the $326 million for the Labor Department's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), announced recently by the Department, and will go to eight national organizations and all state governments for operations from July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1988.

Under the SCSEP, part-time jobs in community-service activities go to older workers who are at least 55 years of age, and have poor employment prospects. Enrollees work at senior citizen centers, and in schools and hospitals, fire prevention programs, beautification and restoration projects, and other community-service projects.

Eight national organizations will receive an additional $7.8 million in grants. They are: Green Thumb, Inc., the National Urban League, the National Council on the Aging, the American Association of Retired Persons, the National Center on Black Aged, the National Council of Senior Citizens, the National Association for Spanish Speaking Elderly, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service.

The remaining $2.2 million will be used for jobs in the states, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Guam, Samoa, the Republic of Palau, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and the Northern Marianas.

SCSEP participants must be paid no less than the Federal or state minimum wage, or the local prevailing rate of pay for any similar employment.

Participants receive annual physical examinations, personal and job-related counseling, job training if necessary, and in some cases, placement into unsubsidized jobs. They may work up to 1,300 hours per year, an average of 20-25 hours per week.

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Week of August 10, 1987

LABOR DEPARTMENT SETS UP
CHILD LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON -- Secretary of Labor William E. Brock has announced establishment of a Child Labor Advisory Committee to advise him on the effective administration of the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The act is enforced by the Wage and Hour Division of the Labor Department's Employment Standards Administration.

Fred Alvarez, assistant secretary for employment standards, said, "This committee will provide us with a valuable tool in our program of strict enforcement of the child labor provisions of the law."

The committee will function solely as an advisory body. It will consist of 21 members representing child advocacy groups, employers, unions, educators, civic organizations, state officials, child guidance professionals and safety groups.

The FLSA is the basic federal labor law covering hours, pay and employment standards. The child labor provisions of the act are intended to protect the educational opportunities of minors and prohibit their employment in jobs and under conditions detrimental to their health and well-being. These provisions include types and hours of work permitted by age of employees and lists of hazardous occupations declared by the secretary of labor as being too dangerous for minors.

Establishment of the committee was published in the Federal Register on July 21. Interested persons may submit comments on the work of the Child Labor Advisory Committee to Paula V. Smith, Administrator, U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room S3502, Washington, D.C. 20210.

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FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Office of Veterans' Reemployment Rights provides reemployment assistance to veterans, reservists and members of the National Guard. During fiscal year 1985, the office advised approximately 202,000 individuals of their reemployment rights at time of separation from active duty, responded to approximately 30,000 inquires, and opened and processed about 1,850 reemployment rights cases, according to the U.S. Labor Department.

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The Labor Department's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) helps to reduce deaths, injuries and illnesses in the nation's mines with a variety of activities and programs. The agency works cooperatively with industry, labor, other federal and state agencies and others toward improving safety and health conditions for all miners.

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The Labor Department's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) was created in 1978 when a 1977 act transferred the Federal mine-safety program from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Labor. MSHA is headed by an assistant secretary of labor, who administers a broad regulatory program to reduce injuries and illnesses in mining.

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